

### REMARKS

Claims 1 to 4, 6, 7 and 17 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Chagnon in view of Kubota.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following.

#### 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 to 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Chagnon in view of Kubota.

Chagnon discloses a drum with grippers 28/13 and folding blades 23/14.

Kubota shows a folding blade passing through a folding blade 2 passing through bands 27.

Claim 1 recites a folding cylinder comprising:

a plurality of gripping devices supported on a first rotatable support and including a first gripping device for holding a signature on the cylinder;

a plurality of tucking devices supported on a second rotatable support, the tucking devices including a first tucking device and a second tucking device, the first gripping device being located circumferentially between the first tucking device and second tucking device, the first and second rotatable supports being rotatable with respect to each other so as to set a fold position of the signature; and

a cover fixed to the second rotatable support and extending circumferentially over the first gripping device between the first tucking device and the second tucking device, the cover having at least one aperture, the first gripping device capable of extending through the at least one aperture.

Neither Chagnon nor Kubota discloses “a cover ...extending circumferentially over the first gripping device..., the first gripping device capable of extending through the at least one aperture” as claimed. Claim 17 recites a similar limitation.

Kubota, as admitted in the Office Action, shows a band over a folding blade, not over a gripper. A combination of Chagnon and Kubota, even of a proper motivation to combine were

present (and it is respectfully submitted that it is not, as Chagnon deals with the gaps in a completely different manner using retracting parts), would not result in the limitations of claim 1 being met. The proposed combination of Chagnon and Kubota would place a band over the folding blade, not over the gripper as claimed.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 17 and their dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

No fee is believed required. If any fee is required at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:   
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